

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2006

7:05 p.m.

ATTENDING

Gloria A. Aparicio
Patricia E. Cornish
Holly Fechner
Deborah L. Horan
Shirley Johnson
Anne S. Kasper
Elizabeth Keyes
Resa Levy
Fauzia R. Najm
Martha Nguyen
Regina L. Oldak
Tedi S. Osias
Gary P. Smith
Yun Jung Yang

STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers
Tracy Stuger
Judith Vaughan-Prather
Marjorie Miller, Intern

ABSENT

Shelia C. Parker

GUESTS

Dory Halati

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were no additions to the Agenda. The following corrections were noted to the Minutes of the April 26, 2006 meeting. On page 3, in Section II A, the word “*interesting*” should be “*interested.*” On page 3, in Section III.C., the Attendance Policy should read as follows with the underlined words to be added:

The CFW discussed the County’s new attendance policy which states that if a member of a board, commission or committee misses more than three meetings in a 12-month period or three consecutive meetings, that constitutes that member’s resignation.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Oldak, duly seconded by Commissioner Keyes and unanimously passed, the Minutes of April 26, 2006 were adopted with the corrections.

II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dory Halati, a former intern with the CFW Counseling and Career Center, was in attendance to observe the proceedings of the commission. Also in attendance was Marjorie Miller, a second year student attending Oberlin College in Ohio. Ms. Miller volunteered to spend her summer serving as an intern to CFW. She will be assisting with various CFW and NACW projects.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....Horan

A. New Commissioner Recruitment

The selection committee made up of President Horan, Commissioners Cornish, Oldak, and Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, interviewed 13 applicants for the CFW and submitted recommendations to the County Executive. Appointments by the County Executive and confirmation by the County Council will hopefully take place in time for the Commission's July 26 meeting.

B. Meetings with County Council

Several commissioners attended the CFW budget worksessions and then followed up by contacting the offices of individual Councilmembers Denis, Silverman, Knapp and Praisner. President Horan expressed her appreciation to everyone who participated in these sessions.

C. CFW Budget

In the County's FY07 Budget, the CFW received an increase in funding for the annual Women's Legislative Briefing and funding to increase the hours of a part-time position in the Counseling and Career Center. In addition, funding was also approved for the Status of Women report and a part-time staff position in the Executive Director's office.

D. Annual Planning Meeting

Typically, CFW meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month; but there has been a proposal to move the Annual Planning Meeting to August 30. Commissioner Levy moved that the August planning meeting be held on August 30, 2006 at 6:00 pm; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Oldak and passed by a 12 to 0 vote, with 2 abstentions and one commissioner absent.

E. CFW Presidential Elections

The CFW Bylaws call for the election of the CFW President to take place at the June meeting. Intent to run forms were to be distributed in April and returned in May; however, the forms were not distributed at that time. The forms were emailed to commissioners last week. Following discussion, commissioners voiced no objections to suspending the procedure for this election. President Horan indicated her intent to run for a second term as CFW President. Elections will take place at the June 28 CFW meeting.

F. Maryland Equal Pay Commission

CFW received a request from the Maryland Equal Pay Commission for documents or studies pertaining to the issue of pay equity. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Commissioner Cornish submitted some pertinent materials. In the 1980s, CFW successfully advocated the conduct of a pay equity study that the County implemented in 1980. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather said that she will collect records of this initiative and transmit them to the Maryland Equal Pay Commission.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Attendance Policy

At last month's meeting, commissioners adopted a policy that telephone participation does not count as official attendance at CFW meetings. The County's new attendance policy states that if a member of a board, commission or committee misses more than three meetings in a 12-month period, or three consecutive meetings, that constitutes that member's resignation.

Commissioner Kasper raised the issue of excused absences for extraordinary circumstances. She expressed her concern that there is no provision for extraordinary circumstances, e.g., absences that could be the result of a medical reason or the death of a family member.

President Horan explained that the County's law for committee meeting attendance does not address the reasons for absences. However, she said if such absences did occur among CFW commissioners, the CFW Executive Committee could ask the County Executive to waive the attendance policy on a case-by-case basis. The CFW went on record during deliberations of the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) recommendations in support of the stricter rule for members' attendance at board, commission and committee meetings.

B. National Teacher of the Year

The Commission sent a letter of congratulations to Kimberly Oliver, a teacher from Broad Acres Elementary School who was named "National Teacher of the Year."

C. Letter to Sharon Grosfeld

A letter was sent congratulating Senator Sharon Grosfeld on her retirement from the Maryland General Assembly and thanking her for years of support to the Commission for Women.

D. Commission on Aging

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will write to the new President of the County's Commission on Aging to schedule a meeting with representatives from both Commissions.

E. Sunshine Peace Award

At their February 2006 meeting, commissioners unanimously approved Attorney Dorothy Fait as the CFW's nominee for the Sunshine Peace Award. The award, sponsored by the Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc., annually honors individuals who work to end domestic violence. Ms. Fait led the establishment of the County's Executive's Task Force on Domestic Violence in 1980 and was instrumental in the recent passage of legislation to create the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to carry on the work of the earlier Task Force.

CFW was recently notified that Ms. Fait was awarded the Sunshine Peace Honorable Mention Award along with a \$1,000 contribution to the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse; the domestic violence agency chosen by Ms. Fait. Ms. Vaughan-Prather will present the award to Ms. Fait, who is a former president of the CFW.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Cornish reported that the two local chapters of BPW (Suburban Maryland BPW and Montgomery County BPW) have merged into one agency. Now known as the Montgomery County BPW, the organization will work together in helping to ensure economic self-sufficiency for women in Montgomery County.

B. Women of Achievement

Commissioner Cornish announced that BPW will host the Annual Women of Achievement Gala on October 17, 2006. BPW is seeking co-sponsors to help publicize the event and nominations from women's organizations. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Cornish, duly seconded by Commissioner Smith and unanimously passed, CFW agreed to again serve as a co-sponsor of the gala, which is in its third year.

C. MLAW Board of Directors

Commissioner Oldak reported that MLAW has just completed its first year and will be holding elections for the new Board of Directors for the upcoming year. Ms. Oldak is stepping down from the Board but said that she hopes CFW will nominate

another commissioner because CFW representation is important. Commissioner Osias agreed to serve as CFW's representative on the MLAW Board. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Oldak, duly seconded by Commissioner Kasper and unanimously passed, Commissioner Tedi Osias was nominated to serve on the MLAW Board of Directors. Staff will prepare the nomination form which is due by June 15.

VI. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. The 2006 Summer Computer Camps begin on July 17 with sessions at the Rockville and Germantown campuses of Montgomery College. The Takoma Park camp begins on July 31. To date, we have received applications from 17 girls requesting scholarships. Lockheed Martin contributed \$770 to cover the cost for printing white tee shirts; however, CFW will contribute the difference to cover the cost of colored shirts. With CFW funds and the contribution from Discovery Communications, we are hoping to provide scholarships for at least 26 girls.

B. Staffing

The announcement for the Budget and Legislative Specialist position (Tracy Stuger's job) has been posted, and the deadline for applying for the job is May 26. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather said that she would like to fill the position while Ms. Stuger is still here. Ms. Stuger is currently drafting the announcement for the part-time Program Specialist position that was just approved in the budget.

C. Women's Law Day

The Women's Law Day event held May 18 was a huge success! Over 70 people attended the half-day seminar and took part in workshops and individual legal consultations. Clients gave the seminar rave reviews on their evaluation forms. The event was very well organized and executed by CFW Counseling and Career Center staff.

D. Maryland Commission for Women Meeting

The Maryland Commission for Women expressed an interest in holding their September meeting at the MCCFW office. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will find out additional details about the meeting request.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL)Kasper

The PAL Committee met on May 10 to debrief its work in the Maryland General Assembly. Commissioner Johnson said that there may be some additional activity regarding the County Predatory Lending legislation in July.

Commissioner Kasper noted that a colleague of hers, who works with breast cancer screening treatment providers all over the state, reported that everyone is ecstatic about the new funding for reconstruction surgery. Ms. Kasper was asked to thank the MCCFW for its leadership role in obtaining the funding. Approximately a half million dollars was appropriated. President Horan commended Ms. Kasper on her personal leadership on this issue and said it showed that individuals who care about something and have the vehicle to act on the issue can really make a difference.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin)Yang

In May, IWin Committee members gave three television interviews to promote the IWORK Campaign. In addition, Administrative Specialist Paula Rodgers mailed out over 16,250 copies of the new brochures to over 109 agencies, and the Committee expressed its appreciation for her handling of this huge mailing project. The press release announcing the brochures has been sent out in five languages.

The Employment Guide for Domestic Workers booklet is in the final stages of review and the committee is hoping to have it finalized by its June meeting.

The County Council's study of Domestic Workers is complete. CFW has been asked by the Council to review the report that was conducted by George Washington University students and make recommendations by October 15 on how best to proceed.

The Chocolate, Checks and Champagne event will be Sunday, June 11 at President Horan's home. The committee still needs commissioners to donate chocolate treats for the event. All commissioners were encouraged to attend.

C. Status of Women in Montgomery County (SWIM)Cornish

The SWIM Committee is making a final review of the section on *Women and Education*. Initial drafts have been completed of the sections on *Immigrant Women* and *Women and the Economy*.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioners Johnson and Osias attended an educational forum on April 27 that was sponsored by the Fair Housing Coordinating Committee. The forum focused on the regulation process and had an excellent turnout of participants.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Commissioner Cornish and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather were recognized by The Daily Record as two of Maryland's Top 100 Women! The Daily Record recognizes the top 100 women who are making an impact in the State of Maryland. Several commissioners and staff attended the awards ceremony held on May 8 in Baltimore.

- B. President Horan, Commissioners Cornish, Oldak, and Yang, along with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Program Manager Elma Rambo, attended Discovery's Worklife luncheon on May 19. Former Commissioner Evelyne Steward, who is the current Vice President of Discovery's Worklife Initiatives, hosted the table for CFW.
- C. President Horan and the Commissioners welcomed Tiffany Lathan to the CFW meeting. Ms. Lathan said that she attended Prince George's County CFW meetings when she worked for the Girl Scouts Organization of Prince George's County. She is now the Senior Program Director at the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington located in Silver Spring, and was interested in observing the MCCFW meeting. Staff will add Ms. Lathan's name to the President's Advisory Council mailing list.
- D. Migrant and Refugee Cultural Support, Inc. (MIRECS) is sponsoring a Colloquium and Dinner on June 1 in celebration of the Tahirih Justice Center and its Coalition Partner's work on behalf of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**